



Federal
Communications
Commission

Implementation of the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act (CVAA)

**Report to
Federal Communications
Commission
July 19, 2013**

CVAA – Signed by President Obama October 2010 Public Law 111-260; Public Law 111-265

- Ensures that people with disabilities are not left behind as digital, Internet and mobile innovations emerge.
- Brings prior laws, enacted in the 1980s and 1990s that focused on telecommunications and legacy technologies, up-to-date.
- Fills in gaps not covered by existing disability laws.
- Enables access to 21st Century technologies that will enhance opportunities for people with disabilities to employment and economic opportunities, education, health services, recreation, emergency services, and the marketplace.

Title I: Communications Access

- Access to Advanced Communications Services – rules adopted October 2011; fully implemented by October 8, 2013.
- Contributions by non-interconnected VoIP providers to TRS Fund – rules adopted October 2011; first contributions made for 2012-13 Fund year.



Emergency Access to 911



- Emergency Access Advisory Committee: 2011-2013
 - Survey completed April 2011
 - Report submitted December 2011
 - Supplements to report submitted 2013
- Text-to-911 Proceeding – Relies in part on CVAA authority to ensure that people with disabilities have text access to public safety answering points.

National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

- Authorizes up to \$10 million annually for programs that distribute equipment to low-income individuals who are deaf-blind
- Rules adopted April 2011; Program launched July 2012
- > 1200 pieces of equipment (hardware and software) distributed in Year 1

National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program

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The goal of the **National Deaf-Blind Equipment Distribution Program (NDBEDP)** is to ensure that every person with combined hearing and vision loss has access to modern telecommunication tools and the training necessary to use them, granting every individual the opportunity to interact with the world as an involved, contributing member of society. The program — promoted by **iCanConnect** — provides outreach, assessments, telecommunications technology and training free of charge to those who meet federal eligibility guidelines. For more information about the **NDBEDP**, including the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) consumer guide and eligibility rules, visit www.fcc.gov/NDBEDP.

For information on eligibility, or to file an informal complaint with the FCC, visit: www.fcc.gov/guides/national-deaf-blind...

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"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another." ~ Helen Keller

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Accessible Web Browsers on Mobile Phones

- Requires mobile phone manufacturers and service providers to make sure that their web browsers are accessible to and usable by people who are blind or have a visual impairment.
- Rules adopted April 2013. Effective October 8, 2013.
- Some manufacturers already in compliance.

Title II: Video Programming

- Video Description
- IP-based Closed Captioning
- Access to Televised Emergency Information
- Equipment Accessibility
- Video Programming Accessibility Advisory Committee report on IP-based closed captioning - July 2011; report on video description, equipment requirements, emergency access - April 2012



ACS Accessibility Obligations

- **If manufactured after January 30, 2012, equipment used for ACS must be accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities, unless not achievable.**
- **If provided after January 30, 2012, providers of ACS must ensure that the services it offers are accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities, unless not achievable.**
- **Additional obligations under Part 14 of the Commission's rules.**

Other ACS Rules

- **Waivers and exemptions**
- **Performance objectives**
- **Enforcement**
- **Consumer dispute assistance**
- **Recordkeeping**

Effective and Compliance Dates

<i>Obligation/Requirement/Exemption</i>	<i>Effective/Compliance/Expiration Date</i>
All obligations and requirements, except recordkeeping, certification, and dispute assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Effective January 30, 2012- Compliance October 8, 2013
Recordkeeping requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- January 30, 2013
Certification requirement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- April 1, 2013, and annually thereafter
Dispute assistance and filing informal complaints	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Effective October 8, 2013

CVAA Title II – Video Programming

FCC Rulemakings Implementing Title II of the CVAA:

- **Video Description (Section 202) – October 2011**
- **IP Closed Captioning/Apparatus Compatibility (Sections 202 & 203) – January 2012**
- **Emergency Information and Apparatus Compatibility for Emergency Information and Video Description (Sections 202 & 203) – April 2013**
- **User Interfaces, Guides and Menus for Digital Apparatus and Navigation Devices (Sections 204 & 205) – October 2013**

Video Description

- **Top 4 broadcast affiliates in top 25 DMAs & MVPDs with more than 50,000 subscribers currently required to provide video description**
- **Top 4 broadcast affiliates in Top 60 DMAs have July 1, 2015 deadline**
- **Covered broadcasters must provide 50 hours per quarter of video described prime time or children's programming per quarter**
- **Covered MVPDs must provide 50 hours per quarter for five most popular networks (USA, Disney, Nickelodeon, TBS, and TNT)**
- **Pass through requirement for all MVPDs and network affiliated broadcasters**

IP Closed Captioning

<i>Type of Programming</i>	<i>Compliance Date</i>
Pre-recorded programming not edited for Internet distribution	September 30, 2012
Live and near-live programming	March 30, 2013
Pre-recorded programming edited for Internet distribution	September 30, 2013

- **Separate deadlines for programming already in distributors' libraries.**
- **Device requirements adopted under Section 203 for display of closed captioning with compliance deadline of January 1, 2014.**

Emergency Information

	<i>Old Rules</i>	<i>New rules</i>
Emergency information provided visually during newscasts	Must be aurally described in main program audio	Same
Emergency information provided visually during non-newscasts	Must be preceded by aural tone	As of May 26, 2015, must be aurally described on a secondary audio stream

- **Device requirements adopted under Section 203 require that as of May 26, 2015, video programming devices make secondary audio stream available for emergency information and video description.**

User Interfaces, Guides and Menus

- **Section 204 – Digital Apparatus**
 - “Appropriate built-in apparatus functions” must be made accessible to those who are blind or visually impaired
 - Access to “closed captioning and video description” through a mechanism reasonably comparable to a button, key or icon
- **Section 205 – Navigation Devices**
 - “On screen text menus and guides” must be made accessible to those who are blind or visually impaired
 - Access to “closed captioning, or accessibility features” through a mechanism reasonably comparable to a button, key or icon.

Accessibility Clearinghouse

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apps.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse/index.html

FC Federal Communications Commission


Accessibility Clearinghouse

HOME RESOURCES BY DISABILITY PRODUCTS & SERVICES TECHNOLOGIES RELATED INFO FOR DEVELOPERS


Welcome to our information hub about phones and innovative ways to communicate, especially for people who may have a disability.

The FCC is dedicated to ensuring that all Americans – including Americans with disabilities – have full access to our nation's communications' revolution. The 21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act put into motion new requirements to ensure that everyone has access to communications as well as the ability to send and receive emergency information and services.


BROWSE RESOURCES BY DISABILITY




Blind or Visually Impaired:
Genetic, congenital or acquired vision disabilities including color blindness.




Cognitive Disabilities
Intellectual deficits or impaired thinking, which include intellectual disabilities, learning disabilities, acquired brain injuries, neurodegenerative diseases like dementia.



Deaf-Blind Disability
Genetic, congenital or acquired limitations in peripheral vision and chronic hearing impairments.



Hearing, Language and Speech Disabilities
Deaf, hard of hearing, late deafened, problems with voice, difficulties pronouncing sounds, or articulation disorders.



Mobility and Physical Disabilities
Includes auto-immune disorders that can make it difficult to use a phone; and spinal cord injuries, quadriplegia and paraplegia.

DISABILITY RELATED EVENTS

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RELATED INFORMATION

- [Fact Sheets](#)
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- [Disability Organizations](#)
- [Veterans' Resources](#)
- [Children and Parents' Resources](#)
- [Senior Citizens' Resources](#)
- [Other Directories](#)

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- [21st Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act](#)
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AccessWireless.org

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Helpful Information

- Accessibility Clearinghouse:
<http://apps.fcc.gov/accessibilityclearinghouse/>
- CVAA Webpage:
<http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/twenty-first-century-communications-and-video-accessibility-act-0>
- First FCC Biennial CVAA Report to Congress – October 5, 2012:
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-12-1602A1.pdf

THANKS!

The background is a dark blue gradient. On the right side, there is a cluster of bright blue and white particles, some of which are connected by thin, light blue lines, creating a network-like or starburst effect. The overall aesthetic is modern and technological.